

MAR 3 1975

17 Fifth Avenue  
Waterford, CT 06385  
February 27, 1975

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
Department of Genetics  
Stanford University School of Medicine  
Stanford, California 94305

Dear Joshua:

It has been many years since we've seen each other. In fact, you may be hard put to remember who I am, since the last time we spoke together was during the hectic days of World War II when we were in the Navy V12 college training program at Columbia University. You were a Pre-med whereas I was in the Engineering program and we both had rooms on the fifth floor of Hartley Hall. In particular, I remember how impressed I was one time when you advised me to take some antacid for an upset stomach and then proceeded to explain what it did from a physiological point of view.

Well, many years have passed since that time. I went on to get an M.S. and Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from Columbia University. Then after a thirteen year period in various engineering and research jobs at Corning Glass Works, Corning, New York, I was asked to set up and direct a research institute for the glass and ceramic industries in Israel under a United Nations Technical Assistance Program. My family and I spent three years in Israel (1962-1965). After returning to Corning Glass for several years, with emphasis on international technical assistance, I decided to go into research and teaching. I am currently a Professor in the Department of Physical and Ocean Science at the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut where I have been teaching chemistry and conducting research on Ocean Systems and materials since 1968.

You may wonder what brings this letter after a span of about thirty years. The thought started almost two years ago. At that time my son, Mark, who is now completing his second year at The University of Connecticut was a senior in high school. One evening he mentioned at the dinner table that he had seen in a text book for his advanced high school biology class a description of Nobel Prize winner Dr. Joshua Lederberg and his work. Mark was quite interested in this since he hopes to study medicine and is interested in genetics and neurology. At this juncture, I mentioned that I had known you many years ago and told of the episode with your "prescribing" an antacid when we were pre-midshipmen in the V12 Program. I added that it would be a valuable experience if Mark could work in your laboratories under your supervision.

At that time Mark was working on his original high school science research project which involved the use of optical staining to improve

WEIDENBAUM, S.

Spungen, Kamey tells name story.

shared sign for ref. etc.

the detection of significant details in brain tissue structure (for which he eventually won a scholarship to The University of Connecticut in the Connecticut Science Talent Search). He was quite thrilled with the fact that I had known you in your Pre-med days. However, he felt that it would be some time before his background would qualify him to make much of a contribution in your laboratories. He did say, however, that when he had completed about two years of college he felt that he could be of use in your laboratories.

Well, as I mentioned earlier, that was almost two years ago. At the end of this semester Mark will have completed two years of college. During this year he has taken several honors courses in organic chemistry with separate intense courses for theory and laboratory. He is most eager to utilize what he has learned and wants very much to meet you and work for you. He feels that now he would not just be taking your time, but that he could do something constructive and worthwhile working for you this coming summer. That is the reason why I am writing to you. Would it be possible for him to work under your supervision in any capacity during this coming summer?

I am certain that Mark will write to you himself answering any questions you might have concerning his background if there is even the remotest chance that he could work in your laboratories. As you can well imagine, however, he was somewhat reticent about just "barging in" himself and asking a Nobel Prize winner, who had never seen him, for a summer job. Therefore, I am taking this opportunity to introduce him to you via this letter. Please let me know if he could spend the summer working for you. I think that you would find that he would do an excellent job. For him it would be a thrilling experience and of great value for scientific and intellectual growth. He currently has an overall college average of 3.8 with a 4.0 in all of his chemistry and physics courses.

Should you wish to speak to someone in Stanford as a reference, there is Mr. James M. E. Harper, who will be completing his Ph.D. work this summer at Stanford University in the Department of Applied Physics. Mr. Harper knew Mark quite well while he was an instructor in physics at the Coast Guard Academy. Mr. Harper can be reached at his office in the Stanford University Department of Applied Physics (Telephone: 497-0147) or at his home, telephone: 941-7493.

Best regards across the years and across the continent. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Sincerely yours,



Dr. Sherman S. Weidenbaum

Enclosure

P.S. Just to help you in remembering who I am, I am enclosing a copy of a page from the 1945 *Columbian* which will give you an idea of how I looked in our V12 days.